

PART 1

JOHN 14.6

This afternoon, it is my privilege to welcome you to True Life Baptist Church. I pray that your time with us is enjoyable and fulfilling and that you will come back on another occasion to worship with us or possibly to join our fellowship here if you are not already involved in a church.

We are a relatively new church founded on the biblical doctrine that God is sovereign in the Universe, that He is about the business of establishing His kingdom here on this earth, and that His method for building His kingdom is by building the church.

He began this process before the foundation of the world and all of history has been about God carrying out His perfect will. While we do not understand all of His ways, we know that His ways are perfect and will always work out for good for those who know Him and who are obedient to His purposes.

If there is any one Scripture that summarizes what we believe here at True Life Church it is...

John 14:6 Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

So our initials, TLC, could stand for...

- **The Living Christ or Loving Christ.**

By his very nature, man is a fallen creature as a result of the sin of Adam in the Garden of Eden after the creation of world by the word of God.

As a result, all men are separated from God by their sinful nature. Yet God in His mercy made a way for us to be reconciled to Him and that is through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Bible says, ***God has given no other name under heaven by which men may be delivered from the consequences of the sin nature.*** (Acts 4.12)

That is what Jesus meant when He said, ***"I am the way."***

The story is told of a man traveling in Africa who determined to visit a tribe he had never visited. When he reached a certain village, all of his bearers refused to go any farther because they feared the unknown path before them.

The man appealed to the local chief. Was there someone in his village who could act as his guide to the distant tribe?

The chief summoned a man, tall, battle scarred, carrying a large axe. A bargain was made and the next morning the man set off through the bush, following his new guide.

The way became increasingly rough and the path had all but disappeared. There was an occasional mark blazed on a tree, occasionally a narrow path.

Finally the man called a halt. He asked the guide if he was sure he knew the way.

The guide pulled himself up to his full height. "White man," he said, "you see this axe in my hand? You see these scars on my body? With this axe I blazed the trail to the tribal village to which we go. I came from there. These scars I received when I made the way. You ask me if I know the way? Before I came, there was no way. I am the way."

Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. No man can come to God except through Him.

Jesus offers us true life, and we at True Life Church are his representatives to a world that needs Him now more than ever.

PART 2

JOHN 14.6

John 14:6 Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

So our initials, TLC, could stand for...

- **The Living Christ or Loving Christ.**

Our initials, TLC, could also stand for...

- **The Loving Community or Learning Community.**

In the early part of the Bible, the nation of Israel is traveling toward their promised homeland. The way is long, much of it through barren desert, and the water is scarce.

The people cry out to their leader, Moses, who asks God what to do about the water problem. God told Moses to use the staff in his hand to strike this particular rock.

When Moses obeyed, the rock became a flowing fountain of water – enough for all of the people to drink their fill.

This is the image of conversion – God takes a heart of stone and works a miracle, turning it into a heart of flesh capable of loving Him and loving each other.

God’s purpose in conversion – His purpose in saving us – is to conform us to the image of His Son, Jesus Christ.

And He conforms us within the community of believers we call the church.

God designed the church for the distinct purpose of providing a fellowship of learning and growth – a community which can support one another, learn from one another, and cooperate with one another to accomplish God’s will.

And the center – the foundation – the beginning of all of our studies is Jesus.

Jesus said, **“I am the truth.”**

The Bible says, **“The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”** (Jn. 1.14)

It is Christ who reveals to us the things of God. Jesus said, **“If you have seen me you have seen the Father.”**

Jesus also said, **“No man knows the Son except the Father, and no man knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son is willing to reveal Him.”**

If you would know God, then you must learn of Him through the person of Jesus Christ and that learning takes place within the body of Christ, the local church.

True Life Church does not have the greatest discipleship programs in place for children, and students, or adults. But we have the vision to create them with the help of men and women who are committed to serving Christ and His body here in our community.

The initials of True Life Church, TLC, could also stand for...

- **The Lasting or Life-long Commitment.**

Those who believe in Christ and who profess Him as Lord are given eternal life – the abundant kind of life that can be found only in Him.

Jesus said, **“I am the life.”** He also said, **“I have come that you might have an abundant life.”**

He gives us His life – eternal life – so that we might give it away to others. We are called to be ambassadors for Christ and that calling lasts a life time.

PART 3

JOHN 14.6

John 14:6 Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

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- The Living Christ or Loving Christ.

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Those who believe in Christ and who profess Him as Lord are given eternal life – the abundant kind of life that can be found only in Him.

Jesus said, **“I am the life.”** He also said, **“I have come that you might have an abundant life.”**

The Bible makes it very clear that Jesus is the source of all life – both physical and spiritual.

John 1:3 All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

Eph. 2:4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved.

John 5:21 For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will.

True life is not something that you can discover by searching for it. It is something that is gifted to you by a loving God who desires

that no one should perish but that all should come to experience eternal life in the Son.

Cartoon character, Dennis the Menace.

Neighbor, Mrs. Wilson

One day Dennis and friend went to visit. Mrs. Wilson gave them cookies.

Friend, “Mrs. Wilson must really think we are good boys to make us these cookies.”

Dennis: “Mrs. Wilson did not make us these cookies because we are good. Mrs. Wilson made us these cookies because **she** is good.”

TRUE LIFE CHURCH begins with the fact that Jesus is the way into the kingdom of heaven – into the house of God. He is the truth of God. Finally, He is the life that is available to those who call on Him as Lord.

He gives us His life – eternal life – so that we might give it away to others. We are called to be ambassadors for Christ and that calling lasts a life time.

PART 4

JOHN 14.6

John 14:6 Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

At True Life Church, our initials, TLC, could stand for...

- The Living or Loving Christ
- The Loving or Learning Community
- The Lasting or Life-long Commitment

I want to tell you a bit more about this life that comes from Christ.

Let me spell it out for you:

L – Limited

We do not live forever on this earth. Our time here is limited to a single lifetime. It may be 70 years or it may be ten. Only God knows for sure.

But the Bible does say, **“It is appointed unto man once to die, and after that the judgment.”**

All of us have an appointment with death.

I – Intentional

The world teaches that our lives are all accidents. We are just the product of some chance primordial chemical reaction where two cells united in some water hole. A creature developed from that cell which one day climbed out of the water hole, stood up on his hind legs, and shouted, “I am man. Hear me roar.”

But man is no accident of evolution. The Bible makes it very clear that we are formed by God on purpose and for a purpose.

And that purpose is to glorify God (1 Cor. 10.31) and to enjoy him forever (Ps. 73.25-26).

F – Faith

Without faith it is impossible to please God, for he that comes to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who diligently seek Him.

The just shall live by faith.

That does not mean that we must hold on to God and fear that He will one day reject us. The life of Christ is a permanent gift, and so is the faith by which we believe in Him.

E – Eternal or Everlasting

Jesus came to earth and was crucified so **that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life.** (John 3.14-15)

That speaks about the kind of life that Jesus gives – his kind of life – the kind that has no beginning and no end.

The Bible goes on to tell us that **God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.**

That speaks of the duration of our lives in Christ.

The Bible says, **“If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and you believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”**

Jesus Christ is the only way into the kingdom of God, the only truth that can change a person’s heart from stone to flesh, and the only life that is worth living.

That is the foundation of our existence at True Life Baptist Church.